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ance of the third personal pronoun from the MSS when its vowel has suffered elision (e.g., Ω 154) are so numerous that they hardly need to be mentioned. Instances of the elision and consequent disappearance of the dative (φοι) may be found in Van Leeuwen, *Enchiridion Dictionis Epicae*, pp. 70-71.

Ω 41 ff.:

λέων δ' ὥς ἄγρια οἶδε

ὅς τ' ἐπεὶ ἄρ' μεγάλη τε βίη καὶ ἀγήνορι θυμῷ  
εἷξας εἶσ' ἐπὶ μῆλα βροτῶν ἵνα δαῖτα λάβῃσι.

The difficulty with this passage, of course, is that there are two relatives (ὅς and ἐπεὶ) and only one finite verb (εἶσι). Most attempts at emendation have centered around the idea of getting two verbs, usually by changing εἷξας into a finite verb (εἷξῃσ' Nicanor, *φείξασκ'* Bentley). Nauck suggested that the trouble might lie in ἐπεὶ ἄρ', but he did not attempt to diagnose the case further. It seems perhaps possible, by the change of one letter, to get a simple and rational reading, i.e., ΟΣ ΤΕ ΦΕΙ (i.e., ὅς τε ἦ. Compare just above, Ω 36, ἦ τ' ἀλόχῳ . . . καὶ μητέρῃ.). On the assumption that this was the original reading it is easy enough to explain how a scribe, failing to apprehend it and having in mind the more famous and elaborate comparison of P 657 ff., changed the φ into π to correspond with the ὅς τ' ἐπεὶ ἄρ' . . . at the beginning of P 658, and so spoiled grammar and sense; for ἐπεὶ in a generalizing clause would naturally call for the subjunctive (as in P 658 and in many other places), while ὅς in a clause of particular description would properly be construed with the indicative (as in P 664, II 755, *et al.*), and the elegant manner of keeping the verb in reserve in P 657 ff. only serves to emphasize the inelegance of a missing verb in this particular place. Instances of the corruption of φ to π are naturally not numerous, since the tendency, of course, would be to substitute familiar and colorless words like τ' (τε) or ῥ' (ῥα). In Hesychius words beginning with φ are usually listed under Γ or Β (Γόινος·οἶνος. Γίσγον·ἵσον. Βεΐκατι·εἵκοσι, Λάκωνες). Perhaps, however, we may recognize φ in παγὰς (i.e., φαγὰς). γῆ τις ὑπὸ τῶν γεωργῶν, in πεπωγμένον (i.e., φεφωγμένον, perf. of ἄγνυμι). κεκλασμένον, in πολλέων (i.e., φολλέων). πολυκίνητος, and in some other words in Hesychius. Van Herwerden, *Lex. Graec. suppl. et dialect.*, quotes also (s.v. ἄτα) ἄπατος (i.e., ἄφατος). ἀθῶος, ἀζήμιος. However, there is no need to go so far afield as Hesychius, since in our MSS examples of the garbling of Vau are extremely plentiful. One need only glance through Van Leeuwen's text to assure himself of the wholesale fashion in which it has been done. Is this (Ω 42) still another case?

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## THE ABU SYMBEL INSCRIPTION AND MODERN CHARACTERS

A striking illustration of the extent to which we unconsciously make use of the heritage of classical antiquity was brought home to me some time ago by an experiment with the letters of a Greek inscription.

Observing that the characters in one of the Abu Symbel inscriptions were very much like the corresponding ones in use today, it occurred to me that it

might prove interesting to transfer some of them to a modern setting. I therefore had a photograph made of the first of the inscriptions (given, e.g., by Roberts, *Greek Epigraphy*, I [Cambridge, 1887], 152).

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣΕΛΘΟΝΤΟΣΕΞΕΛΕΦΑΝΤΙΝΑΝΥΞΑΜΑΤΙΧΟ  
 ΝΑΥΤΑΕΓΡΑΥΑΝΤΟΙΣΥΝΥΑΜΜΑΤΙΧΟΙΤΟ(ΘΕΟΚΛΟΣ  
 ΕΡΛΕΩΝΗΘΟΝΔΕΚΕΡΚΙΟΣΚΑΤΥΡΕΘΕΙΝΙΣΟΠΟΤΑΜΟΣ  
 ΑΝΙΦΑΛΟΓΡΟΣΟΣΘΕΠΟΤΑΣΙΜΤΟΑΙΓΥΠΤΙΟΣΔΕΡΜΑΣΙΣ  
 ΕΓΡΑΦΕΔΑΜΕΑΡΧΟΝΑΜΟΙΒΙΧΟΚΑΙΠΕΛΕΚΟΣΟΨΔΑΜΟ

When king Psammatichos had come to Elephantine, those who sailed with Psammatichos the son of Theocles wrote this. They proceeded above Kerkis as far as the river allowed. Potasimto led the foreigners [the Greeks] and Amasis the Egyptians. Archon the son of Amoebichos and Pelekos the son of Eudamos wrote our names [us].

The inscriptions were cut on the legs of two colossal statues by a detachment of Greek and other soldiers returning through Abu Symbel from an exploring expedition up the Nile. Their date is pretty certainly to be placed between 664 and 589 B.C. Larfeld, in Müller's *Handbuch*, I, 5 (revised edition, Munich, 1914), p. 267, assigns them to a date not later than 650 B.C.

The characters are therefore around twenty-five hundred years old. In order to accomplish my design, from my photograph of the inscription I cut out the individual letters that I needed and put them together so as to form the following legend:

THE PAST IS NOT SO DEAD

AS SOME MEN STATE IT TO BE

I used twelve characters—one more than half of those occurring in the inscription; and there are three more (*K*, *V*, and *X*), with a probable fourth (*Q*) that would have looked perfectly natural in an English sentence. I had to take slight liberties with the *η* and the *ρ*, but in the case of all the other letters the value of the sign in the modern sentence corresponds to that in the Greek.

Just about 73 per cent, then, of these twenty-five-century-old characters could, and very naturally might, be used by an American urchin of the year of grace 1915 to scratch a breezy greeting in the fresh mortar of a granolithic walk; and I venture to believe that not one in five hundred of those who decry the study of "dead languages" would pause, if he chanced to read it in passing by, to note that anything about it was unusual!

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